

Vestry Agenda/ Agenda de la Junta Parroquial

May 29, 2024/29 de mayo 2024

Hybrid/Híbrido - 7:00 pm

The Vestry met in a Hybrid session, May 29, 2024. Present in person were Mother Minerva Camarena Skeith, rector, Noreen McMahan, Treasurer, Margaret Beare, finance committee, and vestry members Brian McGiverin, Senior Warden, Henry Welles, Sarahi Giron, and Mary Cree. Vestry members Carlos Lugo, Patricia Mata and Kevin Flegal, Junior Warden attended via Zoom.

I. Introduction/introducción

A. Opening Prayer/Oracion Inicial Clergy

Mother Minerva Camarena Skeith led an opening prayer.

II. Bible Study/Estudio Bíblico

Bible study was deferred.

III. New Business/Nuevo Negocio

Mother Minerva

A. Congregation's Conversation for Parish Hall Priorities

Conversaciones de la Congregación sobre Prioridades del Salon

Members discussed the meeting with the architects last month. The architects had presented two outlines of physical plans: one with the existing dimensions of the parish hall building divided to accommodate classrooms, offices and event space with a breakdown of the square footage needed for various needs and a second plan describing how the building could be expanded with the addition of another 1000 square feet for additional event space. Members are interested in finding out what the cost would be for either of the two proposals made.

In addition, there is the issue of priorities. If we decide to limit ourselves to the current square footage, what are our priorities for the kind of space we need for our ministries. Is adding space for parish events our priority? Do we need one large event space or is creating two spaces --- one large and one smaller – more appropriate for our needs? Members agreed that one large event space is sufficient. Members also want to meet with the congregation to discuss the priorities for the use of the Parish Hall.

We decided to have three meetings in June with the congregation to determine the priorities for the use of the parish hall. These will be June 2 after the 1:00 service, June 11 at 12:30 and June 27 at 7:30 by Zoom.

B. Roofs' Damage/Daño de los Techos

Kevin Flegal

Junior Warden Kevin Flegal gave a report regarding the damage to the roofs of the sanctuary and parish hall from recent hail. Kevin reports that he is expecting to hear from the church insurance adjuster

next week with their assessment of the hail damage and the dollar figure that our insurance will pay for the repair of our roofs.

VI. Adoption of Minutes/Adopción de Actas

Mother Minerva

- A. A motion was made by Henry Welles to adopt the March vestry minutes. This motion passed.
- B. A motion was made by Mary Cree to adopt the April minutes. The motion passed.

IV. Old Business/ Negocio Previo

- A. Partnership with City of Austin's PARD

Mother Minerva

The representative from Austin Parks and Recreation was unavailable this month, so will be waiting for an update regarding the survey of our land for the proposed park and the city's offer to the church to create a park on our land.

- B. Door Policy

Kevin Flegal

1. As the vestry discussed last month, Kevin Flegal created a one-page policy proposal for locking the exterior doors to the sanctuary during services and unlocking the doors before and after services on Sunday. Vestry members of the day have been assigned to remain in the Narthex during services to open the door to the sanctuary and greet late comers. Kevin proposes having two people – Vestry of the Day and one other – stay in the Narthex during services.

2. There was an extended discussion of vestry experiences since our last vestry meeting, when vestry of the day members sat in the Narthex starting at 8:30am and continuing through the 1:00pm service locking the doors ten minutes into the services and opening the sanctuary doors as needed for people arriving late.

3. A motion was made to adopt the policy as written by the junior warden with the amendment that we leave one door unlocked during the services and have 2 people – Vestry of the day and one other – stay in the Narthex to greet latecomers. The motion was seconded. There were five votes in favor, 1 vote no, and one abstaining.

- C. Vestry of the Day Expectations/ Nuevas Expectativas para los Miembros de la Junta Parroquial del Día.

Kevin Flegal

There was an extended discussion about vestry of the day expectations with respect to the coffee hour in the parish hall. Mother Minerva suggested that vestry members of the day be responsible for picking up trash, putting away the food and cleaning up the leftover coffee after the coffee hour between the 11:00 and 1:00 services. And asking people to pick up any food that is spilled. Further discussion of VOD expectations is tabled for now.

- D. Donation Policy

Kevin Flegal

Donation Policy is tabled until next month.

V. Reports/Informes - Consent Agenda/agenda de consentimiento

- A. Junior Warden's Report/Informe del Guardián Menor

Kevin Flegal

The Junior Warden's report includes the proposals for the donation policy, door policy and vestry expectations as mentioned above.

B. Senior Warden's Report/informe del Guardian Mayor

Brian McGiverin

1. Senior Warden, Brian McGiverin reported regarding the results of the neighborhood walk. People living in the neighborhood were invited to a coffee hour on June 2 at 3:00pm to ask for their suggestions regarding the possible neighborhood park here at St. John's.

2. Brian also invited vestry members to the Central Texas Interfaith (CTI) Delegates Assembly on June 9th.

C. Rector's Report/Informe de la Rectora

Mother Minerva

VII. Treasurer's Report/Informe de la Tesorera

Noreen McMahan

Financials/Documentos Financieros

- A. Noreen reports that expenses exceeded receipts in March by \$3000, but in April receipts exceeded expenses by \$3000 reversing the losses of the previous month. Pledges increased in April, which contributed to the increased revenue.
- B. Some expenses in March are "year to date" figures rather than monthly expenses. Diocesan council expenses occur once a year even though the budget may list them as if they were monthly expenses spread over the months of the year. There was an in-kind donation to the church for audio-visual equipment which was listed in the monthly report as minor maintenance, but it was agreed that this item should be recorded as a separate in-kind item.
- C. St. John's church received two large one-time donations in May. Two current members of the church donated \$25,000 to the church for immigrant assistance ministries. And a member of the church who passed away years ago left \$309,000 to St. John's as part of a charitable remainder trust. The vestry needs to decide how to inform the congregation of these gifts. The first gift is dedicated by the givers to immigrant assistance. And the church and vestry will continue to discern how the larger gift can best be used. A proposal was made to tell the congregation about these gifts. The first gift is dedicated to immigrant assistance. The funds from the larger gift have been deposited in an interest-bearing account. The vestry has determined that these funds should not be used for the regular operating budget, but rather for either capital improvements or a trust for the congregation. The rector has informed the diocese of these gifts and we do not know whether the diocese may change our diocesan assessment in response to these gifts. Mother Minerva asked Noreen McMahan and Margaret Beare to write a statement for Mother Minerva to make to the congregation regarding these gifts and share this with the senior and junior wardens.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

